UPDATE

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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

OAC Chair Looks to the Future

OAC Chair Julia Foster has taken steps to allay any concerns that may have arisen as a result of the resignation late last November of Donna Scott, CEO. In a subsequent meeting with OAC staff, she emphasized that the Board's priority is to ensure stability for the province's thriving arts community and to do so through a strong and vital arts council. Since that time, Mrs. Foster has also met with the Honourable Helen Johns, Minister of Citizenship, Culture, and Recreation.

"Minister Johns is clearly committed to the Ontario Arts Council's role in the province's broad spectrum of funding support for the arts," said Mrs. Foster. "I and my Board colleagues believe that we must do more to build and strengthen links between the various funders and the arts community."

One of the challenges facing OAC is developing new initiatives to meet the evolving needs of the arts community. It is a challenge that OAC started to address by first partnering with The Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation for the ***Task Force on Arts in the Community*** and then by launching OAC's ***Action Plan for Arts in the Communities*** early last summer.

"Some of the very important information that emerged from the task force consultations went beyond OAC's mandate and was therefore not captured in our action plan," said Mrs. Foster. "We are hosting a meeting with the task force consultants and various funders at the end of January to create a forum for dialogue and explore partnership opportunities."

In the meantime, the search for the new head of OAC is being undertaken by a Board committee. John Brotman, Director of Arts Programs, is now OAC's Acting Executive Director.

ISSUE 8

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ **OAC Chair Looks to the Future**
- ❑ **Consulting, Mentoring, and Technical Assistance**
- ❑ **Touring and Collaborations**
- ❑ **Advisory Councils**
- ❑ **New Components to Theatre Projects**
- ❑ **Arts Education Initiatives**
- ❑ **Policy Changes**
- ❑ **Staffing Update**
- ❑ **OACF Administers Renewed Arts Endowment Fund**
- ❑ **Awards**

Consulting, Mentoring, and Technical Assistance

Proposals for OAC's new Consulting, Mentoring, and Technical Assistance program will be accepted as of February 1, 2001. The program is designed to help Ontario organizations build capacity and increase self-reliance and sustainability by covering some or all of the costs of contracting individuals with the particular expertise needed.

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Consulting, Mentoring, and Technical Assistance *(cont.)*

The program has two components – mentorship and technical assistance – to help organizations engaged in not-for-profit professional arts activity. Arts organizations may obtain mentoring support for their professional staff. Funds will cover an honorarium for the mentoring arts professional or expert and living expenses for the person being mentored.

Arts organizations may also apply to OAC for technical assistance. Funds will cover transportation and per diem costs to bring in a Canadian-based specialist who has knowledge and experience of management. OAC will pay up to $500 per day for specialists' fees, plus expenses.

OAC staff will continue to provide consultation and advice when requested.

There are no deadlines, and proposals are reviewed every four to six weeks. This program is for organizations only. For more information about the Consulting, Mentoring, and Technical Assistance program, contact Keith Allin, Program Coordinator, at 416-969-7446 or 1-800-387-0058, ext. 7446, or Janice Lambrakos, Information Services Coordinator, at 416-969-7429 or 1-800-387-0058, ext. 7429.

Touring and Collaborations

Details about OAC's new Touring and Collaborations program were announced in early December. The focus of the new program is to help OAC accomplish its goal of bringing more artists to more Ontarians. One major new aspect is that the program has been opened up to all OAC discipline areas, including literature, visual and media arts, as well as the performing arts. Supporting collaborative initiatives at the local level beyond the one-time performance is a program priority. Another is reaching remote or underserved communities in the province.

The two deadlines for Touring and Collaborations applications are **February 1** and **August 1, 2001** .

For more information, contact Glenn Hodgins, Touring and Outreach Officer, at 416-969-7407 or 1-800-357-0058, ext. 7407.

Advisory Councils

For financial reasons, OAC has been unable to proceed with the appointment of the advisory councils announced last spring. We are currently reviewing this initiative.

New Components to Theatre Projects

OAC has revised its Theatre Projects program to better support the distinct types of activities of independent theatre artists as well as professional theatre companies.

The *Workshops*category has been expanded to include two phases. Phase I supports the artistic costs of initial exploration and development of a theatre project or idea. This "R & D" creation grant of up to $5,000 assists projects in their conceptual phase.

Phase II of *Workshops*provides up to $15,000 toward the cost of a project at a more advanced stage of development and includes some aspects of production, such as a public workshop presentation.

The *Production*category provides up to $20,000 toward all aspects (artistic, production, technical, marketing/publicity, and administration) of a project.

The *Special Events and Presentations* category has been renamed *Theatre Initiatives*to support particular projects that are of significant benefit to the professional theatre community.

The 2001 deadlines for Theatre Projects are **February 1** and **August 1, 2001** . For more information about Theatre Projects, call Lucy Gouveia, Theatre Program Assistant, at 416-969-7432 or 1-800-387-0058, ext. 7432.

Arts Education Initiatives

The new guidelines and application forms for the programs **Artists in Education/Individuals** (deadline **April 15, 2001**) and the **Aboriginal Artists in Education** (deadline **May 15, 2001**) for 2001–2002 are now available on OAC's Web site. A new **Aboriginal Artists Network** list of successful applicants in 1999–2000 is available from Denise Bolduc, Aboriginal Arts Officer, at 416-969-7454 or 1-800-387-0058, ext. 7454.

The **Arts Education Projects** program that supports arts groups and arts organizations doing a range of arts education activities in the schools is being revised. The guidelines and application form will be posted on OAC's Web site in the spring. The new deadline for this program is **November 1, 2001** .

OAC has revised its ***Guide to Successful Partnership*** to help artists and educators successfully carry out effective creative arts projects for learners. This document and others are available on OAC's Web site.

OAC and the Laidlaw Foundation have released their ARTS Education Poster Kit, designed to engage teachers in looking at and enriching arts programming in the classroom. This project was endorsed by the Ontario Principal's Council. To request a copy, contact the Laidlaw Foundation at 416-975-1428 or e-mail *mail@laidlawfdn.org*

Policy Changes

Grants to Organizations

OAC has changed its policy regarding the number of project grants organizations may receive each year. Effective immediately, all arts organizations are eligible to receive support from the full range of project programs available to them at OAC. Previously, operating clients were eligible for only one project grant per year. Other organizations not receiving operating support were limited to receiving two project grants per year.

Grants to Visual Artists

As of April 1, 2001, artists may receive only one Visual Arts grant (Emerging Artist $3,000, Mid-Career Artist $5,000, or Senior Artist $10,000) every 24 months. For example, if you receive a grant in the fiscal year 2001–2002, you may not reapply until 2003–2004. This policy change is consistent with the policies of other funders.

Staffing Update

Since the last issue of *Update*, a number of staffing changes have occurred at OAC. **Cindy Richmond** , **Visual and Media Arts Officer** , has left OAC to pursue other interests and we wish her well in her future endeavours. **Melanie Fernandez, Community Arts Officer** , will be Acting Visual and Media Arts Officer while the search for the Officer in that sector is underway. **Denise Bolduc** , **Aboriginal Arts Officer** , will take over the Community Arts Officer duties while Melanie works in the Visual and Media Arts sector.

We welcome **Lisa Wörhle, Associate Visual and Media Arts Officer** , back from maternity leave. Lisa's maternity leave replacement, **Annette Mangaard**, is staying on part-time. The visual arts, crafts, and media arts community is being consulted to identify issues in those areas that will assist OAC in its search for a new Visual and Media Arts Officer.

Linda Brown , **Awards Officer** , is leaving OAC after ten years to become the General Manager of Triptych Media Inc. a film production company. We are sorry to lose Linda, who was a great wealth of OAC information and we wish her the best. **Colette Naubert, Associate Officer of Arts Education and Arts in the Community** , will step in and become Acting Awards Officer.

OAC has undertaken a search for a new Theatre Officer as **Jan McIntyre** will not be able to resume her duties due to health reasons. After 25 years with OAC, Jan's wry humour and immense knowledge of Ontario's theatre sector will be missed by both staff and those who worked with her in the theatre community.

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Staffing Update *(cont.)*

Keith Allin has been retained as a consultant to coordinate the Consulting, Mentoring, and Technical Assistance program. Keith has an M.B.A. from the University of Toronto and has served as a consultant for Deloitte & Touche and the Ontario Agricultural Training Institute. Keith was originally trained as an actor and worked in the theatre for several seasons.

OAC's newest staff member is **Brandon Marlon, Assistant to the Director of Arts Education and Arts in the Community**. Brandon replaces Louise Campbell, who was with OAC for six years.

Awards

The **Lieutenant Governor's Awards for the Arts (Jackman-Bickell Awards)** were presented to 20 winning arts organizations on December 13, 2000, by the Honourable Hilary M. Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and the Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

The **Stratford Shakespearean Festival** received the top prize of **$50,000**. Four **$25,000** prizes were given to the **Art Gallery of Hamilton**, the **Ottawa Bluesfest**, the **Ottawa Chamber Music Festival**, and the **Shaw Festival Theatre Foundation**. The 15 prizes of **$10,000** were awarded to **4th Line Theatre Company, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival, Danny Grossman Dance Company, Drayton Entertainment Inc., Factory Theatre, Esprit Orchestra, Guelph Jazz Festival, Le Theatre Français de T oronto, London Fanshawe Symphonic Chorus, Off Centre Music Series, Soundstreams Canada, Tarragon Theatre, Tapestry New Opera Works,** and **Theatre & Company.**

These awards recognize Ontario-based arts organizations for demonstrating exceptional private sector and community support.

Laurie Elliot of Toronto was presented with the $2,000 **Tim Sims Encouragement Fund A ward** for Comedy on November 12, 2000.

All the awards listed above are administered by the **Ontario Arts Council Foundation**.

OACF Administers Renewed Arts Endowment Fund

The Ontario Arts Council Foundation is now administering Phase II of the province's **Arts Endowment Fund** (AEF) **Program**. Last November, the Honourable Helen Johns, Minister of Citizenship, Culture, and Recreation, announced the details of the program being renewed for another three years with an additional $25 million (plus $4 million in unspent monies from Phase I). The AEF Program matches, dollar-for-dollar, funds raised for endowment purposes by professional, not-for-profit arts organizations of all sizes.

The program's major change concerns the mid-sized arts organizations. Organizations can now choose to keep up to 66 per cent of the monies they raise for endowment purposes and put them toward operating costs. Organizations that exceed their annual maximum may carry over a percentage of these funds to be matched in the following year of the program.

Since its inception in 1998, almost 200 arts organizations have established endowments totaling more than $39 million in the Arts Endowment Fund Program. For more information about the program contact Janet Stubbs, Director of the Ontario Arts Council Foundation, at 416-969-7413 or 1-800-387-0058, ext. 7413; e-mail jstubbs@arts.on.ca or visit the Web site at www.gov.on.ca/mczcr.

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